

Amendments to the Claims

Please **cancel** claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 18, 21 and 26, **amend** claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 24 and 25, and **add** claims 28-56 as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of deploying an occluder in a body passageway comprising:

inserting a catheter into a body passageway, said catheter having a ~~multi-wing~~ blood flow blocking element comprising structural members which define openings therebetween,

providing said blood flow blocking element in a radially compressed state during said step of inserting,

radially expanding said blood flow blocking element into a radially expanded state extending to or near to the wall of the body passageway after said step of inserting,

said step of radially expanding including providing said expanded state with ~~a~~ an outer, distally facing, generally funnel surface extending out from said distal end of said catheter, and

using said expanded state of said blood flow blocking element for blocking passage of material around the outside of said catheter.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein said blood flow blocking element ~~is~~ comprises a malecot-style blood flow blocking device ~~covered with an annular elastomeric, impermeable membrane~~.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) An occluder for use in a body passageway comprising:
a catheter having a distal end,
a blood flow blocking element comprising structural members which define openings therebetween, the blood flow blocking element positioned near the distal end of the catheter,
said blood flow blocking element having a radially compressed insertion state and a radially expanded blocking state,

an actuator associated with said catheter to move said blood flow blocking element from said compressed state to said expanded state, and

said blood flow blocking element in said radially expanded blocking state having ~~a~~ an outer, distally facing, generally funnel surface extending out from said distal end of said catheter.

11. (Currently amended) The occluder of claim 10 further comprising an annular ~~membrane around~~ contacting said structural members of said blood flow blocking element.

12. (Currently amended) The occluder of claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein said blood flow blocking element ~~is~~ comprises a malecot style device.

13. (original) The occluder of claim 11 wherein said membrane is an elastomeric, impermeable membrane.

14. (Currently amended) The occluder of claim 10 wherein said catheter comprises a lumen and said actuator extends, through said lumen, distal of said blood flow blocking element and when moved in a proximal direction, engages said blood flow blocking element to switch said blood flow blocking element from said retracted insertion state into said radially expanded blocking state.

15. (Currently amended) A method of deploying an occluder in a body passageway comprising:

inserting a catheter into a body passageway, said catheter having a blood flow blocking element comprising structural members which define openings therebetween and an axially movable actuator operably coupleable to the blood flow blocking element,

providing said blood flow blocking element in a radially compressed state during said step of inserting,

moving the actuator thereby radially expanding said blood flow blocking element into a radially expanded state extending to or near to the wall of the body passageway after said step of inserting,

said step of radially expanding including providing said expanded state with ~~a~~ an outer, distally facing, generally funnel surface extending out from said distal end of said catheter, and using said expanded state of said blood flow blocking element for blocking passage of

material around the outside of said catheter.

16. (original) The method according to claim 15 wherein said blood flow blocking element is a malecot-style blood flow blocking device covered with an annular elastomeric, impermeable membrane.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A medical instrument for use in a body comprising:
an elongate tubular member having a lumen and a distal end,
a blood flow blocking element comprising structural members which define openings therebetween, the blood flow blocking element positioned near said distal end of said elongate member,
an annular membrane around said structural members of said blood flow blocking element,
said blood flow blocking element having a radially compressed state and a radially expanded blocking state,
an actuator associated with said elongate member to move said blood flow blocking element from said compressed state and to said blocking state,
said blood flow blocking element in said radially expanded blocking state having a an outer, distally facing, generally funnel shape surface extending from said distal end of said elongate tubular member.

20. (original) The medical instrument of claim 19 wherein said membrane is an elastomeric, impermeable membrane.

21. (Canceled)

22. (original) An occluder for use in a body passageway comprising:
a catheter having a distal end,
a blood flow blocking element comprising structural members which define openings therebetween, the blood flow blocking element positioned near the distal end of the catheter, and

an annular membrane around said structural members of said blood flow blocking element,

said blood flow blocking element having a radially compressed insertion state and a radially expanded blocking state,

an actuator associated with said catheter to move said blood flow blocking element from said compressed state to said expanded state.

23. (original) The occluder of claim 22 wherein said membrane is an elastomeric, impermeable membrane.

24. (Currently amended) The occluder of claim 22 wherein said catheter comprises a lumen and said actuator extends, through said lumen, distal of said blood flow blocking element and when moved in a proximal direction, engages said blood flow blocking element to switch said blood flow blocking element from said retracted insertion state into said radially expanded blocking state.

25. (Currently amended) The method of deploying an occluder and in a body passageway comprising the steps of:

inserting a catheter into a body passageway, said catheter having a blood flow blocking element comprising structural members which define openings therebetween, the blood flow blocking element covered with an annular elastomeric, impermeable membrane, and an axially movable actuator operably coupleable to a distal portion of the blood flow blocking element,

providing said blood flow blocking element in a radially compressed state during said step of inserting, and

moving the actuator thereby:

radially expanding said blood flow blocking element into a radially expanded state extending to or near to the wall of the body passageway after said step of inserting, and

forming an outer, distally facing, generally funnel surface extending out from said distal end of said catheter, and

using said expanded state of said blood flow blocking element for blocking passage of material around the outside of said catheter.

26. (Canceled)

27. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein the actuator moving step comprises proximally pulling the actuator.

28. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises an annular impermeable membrane associated with the malecot-style blood flow blocking device.

29. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises a braided-style blood flow blocking device.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises an annular impermeable membrane associated with the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

31. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein the radially expanding step is carried out in a self-expanding manner.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31 wherein the radially expanding step is carried out with a self-expanding blood flow blocking element.

33. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein the blood flow blocking element providing step comprises providing a self-expanding, braided-style blood flow blocking device so that the radially expanding step is a self-expanding radially expanding step.

34. (New) The occluder of claim 10 wherein the actuator is a self-expanding actuator associated with said catheter to move said blood flow blocking element from said compressed state to said expanded state

35. (New) The occluder according to claim 10 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises a braided-style blood flow blocking device.

36. (New) The occluder according to claim 35 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises an annular impermeable membrane associated with the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

37. (New) The occluder according to claim 36 wherein the membrane contacts the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

38. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises a braided-style blood flow blocking device.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises an annular impermeable membrane contacting the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

40. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the radially expanding step is carried out in a self-expanding manner.

41. (New) The method according to claim 40 wherein the radially expanding step is carried out with a self-expanding blood flow blocking element.

42. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the blood flow blocking element providing step comprises providing a self-expanding, braided-style blood flow blocking device so that the radially expanding step is a self-expanding radially expanding step.

43. (New) The occluder according to claim 19 wherein the actuator is a self-expanding actuator associated with said catheter to move said blood flow blocking element from said compressed state to said expanded state

44. (New) The occluder according to claim 19 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises a braided-style blood flow blocking device.

45. (New) The occluder according to claim 44 wherein the blood flow blocking element

comprises an annular impermeable membrane associated with the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

46. (New) The occluder according to claim 45 wherein the membrane contacts the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

47. (New) The occluder according to claim 22 wherein the actuator is a self-expanding actuator associated with said catheter to move said blood flow blocking element from said compressed state to said expanded state

48. (New) The occluder according to claim 22 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises a braided-style blood flow blocking device.

49. (New) The occluder according to claim 48 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises an annular impermeable membrane associated with the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

50. (New) The occluder according to claim 49 wherein the membrane contacts the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

51. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises an annular impermeable membrane associated with the malecot-style blood flow blocking device.

52. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises a braided-style blood flow blocking device.

53. (New) The method according to claim 52 wherein the blood flow blocking element comprises an annular impermeable membrane associated with the braided-style blood flow blocking device.

54. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein the radially expanding step is carried out in a self-expanding manner.

55. (New).The method according to claim 54 wherein the radially expanding step is carried out with a self-expanding blood flow blocking element.

56. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein the blood flow blocking element providing step comprises providing a self-expanding, braided-style blood flow blocking device so that the radially expanding step is a self-expanding radially expanding step.